

National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) Meeting
March 16, 2011
Mystic Ranger District

Members Present:

Jim Heinert, Chairman; Tom Blair, Sam Brannan, Tom Troxel, Joe Sandrini, Becci Rowe, Jim Scherrer, Nels Smith, Hugh Thompson, Richard Krull, Daniel Hutt.

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Dennis Jaeger, Frank Carroll, Bob Thompson, John Rupe, Tom Willems, Twila Morris - Recorder.

Others:

Approximately five members of the public were in attendance. Three Congressional representatives were also in attendance; Chris Blair (Johnson – D, South Dakota), Mark Haugen (Thune – R, South Dakota), Sandy Massey (Noem – R, South Dakota),

Members Absent:

Bill Kohlbrand, Bob Paulson, Jeff Vonk, Craig Tieszen, Carson Engelskirger, Donovan Sprague, Ev Hoyt, Nancy Kile

Welcome:

Chair Heinert: We have a quorum; call the meeting to order (1:01 p.m.)

Approve February Minutes:

Heinert: Do we have a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting? Motion made by Tom Blair second by Becci Rowe, motion carried.

Approve the Agenda:

Heinert: Are there any changes to the Agenda?

Bobzien: I would like to make an addition under hot topics. I was in Denver last week and met with the Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, and would like to report on that meeting.

Heinert: Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Motion made by Tom Troxel, second made by Sam Brannan, motion carried.

Housekeeping:

Carroll: Restrooms out both doors, treats provided by the Boxelder Job Corps, we really appreciate their support.

Meeting Protocol

Heinert: We'll continue to observe the rules of engagement, get my attention if you would like to speak.

With that we'll move into our Hot Topics.

Hot Topics

Bark Beetle Response & Collaboration

Bobzien: All but one of our panel members is here, and we'll introduce them as soon as we get started.

I would like to welcome our congressional representatives here today, Chris from Senator Johnson's office, Mark from Senator Thune's office, and Sandy from Representative Noem's office.

Also with us today is Mr. George Byers, Government Affairs with Rare Element Resources out of Denver; thank you for joining us today.

As we go through our topics today, under the Chairs direction, if there are questions we'll take those by topic, make those requests through the chairman.

Blair: Mr. Chairman, if I may, even though it's a day early, being Irish, I would be remiss if I did not wish you all a Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

Heinert: Who would like to address the bark beetle topic?

Jaeger: Glad to see that Gene Norman with the Save Our Black Hills Coalition (SOBHC) is here today. Gene arranged the meeting we had last week here at the Rapid City office. We were fortunate to have Walt Bones, the State Secretary of Agriculture; Coe Foss, Joe Lowe, Ray Sowers, private land owners, the SOBHC Steering Committee, and others in attendance. We had a lot of good discussion. Topics covered understanding the issue and how we can make a difference cooperatively. Thanks Gene for putting this meeting together.

We presented a new video which was designed to help private landowners understand the process of working with the Forest Service (FS) to remove beetle infested trees adjacent to their property on FS land.

Gene Norman: It was a good meeting; there were a lot of people in attendance, about 40 I believe. Craig brought the FS staff; Walt Bones brought his staff from Pierre. We discussed private landowners and the bark beetle problem that is affecting businesses and landowners. We didn't come to any solutions at the end of the day, but got people thinking about the problem. We appreciate the FS and State for attending the meeting.

Bobzien: Mount Rushmore has been active in managing their resources. They've recently joined forces with the Society of American Foresters to do a joint effort project that entailed marking beetle hit trees for future cutting and chunking. Carson Engelskirger was one of the key leaders volunteering and coordinating. Frank Carroll was also actively involved in the planning, getting some of us from the Forest Service involved.

Carroll: Tom Troxel was the actual catalyst for the whole project and we appreciate his efforts.

Bobzien: Yes thank you Tom, great job.

Budget – Continuing Resolution

Bobzien: A new continuing Resolution has been passed to take the Federal Government out to April 8th.

Rowe: What size of a budget cut might be ensuing?

Bobzien: There were no numbers given about that. Some of the numbers were a lot more about food safety, and crop price support.

Rowe: Just curious if there was any indication of what kind of a cut everyone would be looking at.

Bobzien: Based on congressional budget vs. something from the Department.

Heinert: Would any of the cuts being considered have implications for the current fiscal year?

Bobzien: We do not have a current fiscal year budget, but he made the point that he wants to spread this over time since we are so far in to the fiscal year.

Heinert: Does anyone have any further questions?

Brannan: It's always been a little fuzzy to me about what this Board's involvement is now after the Travel Management decision has been made. Where do we stand in terms of involvement?

Bobzien: There's always an opportunity to talk about a specific aspect of involvement. Our plan is that the next roll for the Board, now that we enacted the motorized trail system, is that we will have an annual monitoring review. The Board acts as the Resource Advisory Committee, so that will be your roll. We will bring the monitoring and proposed plan formally back to the Board.

Blair: The review that you spoke about on the trails, will that start in December, because that was when the plan was implemented?

Bobzien: We'll have the results of the financial report, and we could look at that in August, because any receipts we've received will go to the bank if you will, but they cannot be spent till October 1, 2011 (next fiscal year, FY2012). It could begin as early as October 1, 2011 though.

Heinert: Craig would you like to cover your one additional Hot Topic?

Bobzien: The one new topic was that yesterday I was in Denver and met with Secretary Vilsack. Rick Cables introduced him and said that this was the first time the Agriculture Secretary had ever been in the FS headquarters in Denver. Secretary Vilsack oversees 100,000 people, and he gave an impressive talk.

Beyond his personal presence, he was the Governor of Iowa for eight years. He stood out as connecting with rural America. Some of the things he cited when it come to rural America; 16% of the people in the United States live in rural America, but 44% of the military is from rural America. He talked specifically about his interests in healthy forests and healthy communities, and the need to continue to add value to agricultural products. The family farm and what that means and how we should diversify. He spoke about feed stock for bio-energy, talked to the value of the working forest, water, recreation (great setting). He also talked about these opportunities being a way for small rural communities to expand.

Then I thought about our conversations we will have here today. What we have that is successful, what we want to maintain, and how we will work together in the future.

I was impressed with his presence, vision, knowledge of the FS in a short time, how it fits together, how rural communities fit together, I was very impressed.

Heinert: That concludes the hot topics let's move into the regular agenda.

Regular Agenda

Partnership Panel

- Dianna Saathoff – Mount Rushmore Society
- Jim Glines – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Morris Brewer – Pine Ridge High School
- Darcie Henegar – Save Our Black Hills Coalition
- Steve Baldwin – Black Hills Parks & Forests Association

Bobzien: We have one panel member that is not here, but we'll go ahead and get started. I would like to give a brief overview for the Board and for those who were not in attendance at February's meeting. We are asking for the Boards advice as we develop our partnership strategy.

We have some of our partners on our panel here today that you'll be able to listen to and learn about some of their interests, and some of their programs. We've in some way shape or form had partnerships for decades. Some cases we do well some we don't do so well. Tom Willems is our new Forest Partnership Coordinator as well as Travel Management Leader. We want to

develop this partnership program with your advice.

We want to listen to our panelists to understand what they do, what constitutes a successful partnership, and challenges they have in partnerships. At the conclusion, Chairman Heinert and I have discussed working to appoint a subcommittee, to look at this and provide advice. I'll go back to travel management, and the advice that you provided; this is something we can all take to heart about what we should be looking at, for the long term work that we do. What is our business, what do partners bring?

Last month's partnership panel was principally on recreation; today we'll broaden the scope a little. Our panelists today are:

Morris Brewer: Morris is the Transition Coordinator for the Pine Ridge High School. He works with the High School, and our Youth Natural Resource Program, as well as with the Boxelder Job Corps.

Darcie Henegar: Darcie is the leader of the "Save Our Black Hills Coalition". This is a grass roots organization; we do not have a formal partnership with them to date.

Steve Baldwin: Steve has been a partner for a long time. He partners with us through the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association, and helps us with interpretation material, etc.

Dianna Saathoff: Dianna is the Executive Director of the Mount Rushmore Society. They recently have made a decision to look at partnerships and work outside of the Mount Rushmore boundaries.

Jim Glines: Jim is with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). Jim has some slides he'll show of the work they do. Jim takes on capacity and oversight responsibilities to help take care of wildlife, and all the other great work that RMEF does with us.

Thank you all for coming here today.

I've asked the panel to by way of introduction give background of each of the organizations they represent. Then we'll address the questions; what does a successful partnership look like, and what are the barriers that need to overcome?

Steve Baldwin: Thanks to Craig and the Board for the opportunity to come here and tell you about our partnership. I'm a lifelong resident of Custer, Executive Director of the Black Hills Parks and Forest Association (BHP&FA). We are a nonprofit cooperation, we were formed in 1946. We were the Black Hills Areas Interpretive Association then, and eventually partnered with the FS, so we changed to BHP&FA.

People get us confused with the Black Hills National Forest quite often. I'll have a range permittee call me up and ask for permission to leave the cattle out for another couple of weeks – and I just say sure!

We are a private nonprofit; I work for a seven member Board of Directors. Our main office is located in Wind Cave National Park, which is also our largest interpretive site.

We are a little different from other partners; we don't provide people or services. We provide interpretive materials to the visitors of the Forest offices. We partner with the FS for publishing

interpretive materials. Primarily, we had the ability to sell FS maps, in an easier way than the FS could do it, the FS also wanted interpretive materials available at the Pactola Visitor Center. Now in this office, you'll see a lot of books and maps for sale.

We call ourselves book stores, but we are more of a museum outlet, books are probably our biggest seller, but we have a lot of other items as well. A good example is the BHNF recreation map. It got a bit out of date, it was last printed in 2001 and there weren't many updates.

Two years ago, we partnered with National Geographic maps and with the BHNF and put together two new maps, one is the north, and one is the south. This has all the roads and trails, private vs. public, etc. and is in full color. It is still the public's responsibility to check with the FS to make sure it is accurate; but it will be kept as current as possible.

When we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Regional Office called and asked us to head up production and distribution of a lapel pin to commemorate the anniversary. The profit made on these pins goes to the BHNF Wilderness Education fund – we sold 25,000 pins in three months.

The side benefit of what we do, being nonprofit, we give the money back to the Agencies. 100% of excess profits go back to partners. In the last 10 years, we have turned back over \$50,000 to be used in interpretive or education areas.

Some examples of work we've done are the Moon Walk brochures, research, trail maintenance, and signs. The aid is not guaranteed, it's a secondary thing, and I would hate to tell any one of the Agencies that we wouldn't have aid.

Bobzien: Thank you Steve, and welcome Diana Saathoff, Executive Director for the long established foundation with Mount Rushmore.

Dianna Saathoff: Partnerships is my favorite topic and any time I'm in the same room as Steve Baldwin, I know I'm in the right place! Steve and I have similar roles. The Mount Rushmore Society is a little unique, in that it was established in 1930 by the District of Columbia; so it predates Mount Rushmore by three years. We were initially started to raise money for the carving.

We are now celebrating our 81st year, and we have operations similar to BHP&FA providing retail outlets for sales and support of Mount Rushmore.

To remain a dynamic organization, sometimes you have to go back to the basics and one of the things we decided to do was go back to our mission statement. The decision was to stay contemporary; we needed to broaden our outlook, to look at other agencies we could partner with. The articles now read that we will support other agencies, landowners, etc.; if other projects come up we will be authorized to work with other partners. Like I said the District of Columbia developed the articles, so we are waiting to hear back from them.

Thank you very much for the invitation to attend your meeting today.

Morris Brewer: I'm the Transition Coordinator for the Pine Ridge High School. I've been involved with the Youth Natural Resource program for three years now. It's amazing to see it grow and develop. Students are excited. We choose two students along with four other

reservation schools to participate in the program. It is a collaborative effort that allows our students to work with the Black Hills. It's amazing to hear what opportunities they have. We are excited to be a part of it. Part of my job is to provide opportunities to the students. Thank you for inviting me, it is a pleasure to be here and be a part of the Board's meeting today.

Jim Glines: I'm a volunteer with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). Thanks to the Board for inviting me here today. We have an agreement with the FS to do projects on the Forest. We started five years ago, and the agreement ends in April, but we are working on an extension. It's a way for the volunteers to work with the FS, and a way for us to help. We've taken over the maintenance and new construction of guzzlers. The guzzlers catch water to provide for the wildlife during dry seasons. We started out with 36; right now we have 55 guzzlers on the Mystic District. They are located from Piedmont to Moon. The guzzlers are designed to help hold wildlife in areas on the Forest rather than having them moving on into private land.

Darcie Henegar: Special Thanks to the FS for having us today.

The way I got started with the SOBHC, was that I was coming away from an experience in New Orleans working on a post Katrina effort. One observation I had is that in times of disaster, it brings out the best in human beings. I asked Gene about this dramatic change in the Black Hills; who knows about this; what can we do to create awareness? We decided to draft a resolution for the States of South Dakota and Wyoming. We got 600+ signatures. We have developed a great opportunity for collaboration and partnership to deal with the pine beetle. We've also presented the resolution to the Governor and it is our intent to work with any agencies possible.

We had a meeting at Crazy horse last summer, and had many participants; the FS was one of our key presenters. The result of the meeting resulted in a Steering Committee which is made up of a cross section of volunteers. The SOBHC Mission is: To Successfully reduce the current pine beetle epidemic to an endemic status and develop a long-term strategy for the future health and sustainability of the Black Hills National Forest.

Heinert: 10 minute break (2:03)

Bobzien: At this point I would like each panelist to identify what success looks like, and what problems they have encountered. The intent is to look at what are the challenges.

Jim Glines: The success of the program that we've been involved with is being able to see success from my end, having my volunteers, giving them something to do, giving them a sense that they are doing something good for wildlife here in the Black Hills along with fostering good relationships with the public and the Forest Service.

Success is also providing water for wildlife, access to it, during the dry part of the summer. It benefits so many areas and we're doing it at basically no cost to the Forest Service.

Scherrer: The contemporary discussion these days is the lions. It's obvious that those guzzler areas are going to be a feeding station for the lions. What are you seeing with regard to the predator – prey based on that attraction?

Glines: I've only seen one site that had a kill on it, but I've seen tracks on every site. I had one tank that had eight different lions on it. They are there, but I've only actually found one kill at a tank site.

Scherrer: There's so much debate about the lions.

Glines: There is, we know they're there, but I just haven't seen the areas being used for kill areas. I usually make a loop around to monitor all the tanks, so I'm pretty in tune with what is going on out there.

Brannan: The other groups in the area, that are as worthy as the Elk Foundation, but are not afforded the opportunity to do these things, are they concerned?

Glines: I've had some folks help from the Turkey Foundation. We work with them and others pretty good.

Sandrini: I would like to thank you for the work you do. What I hear you say is that a successful partnership consists of: Tangible results, something that makes people feel good about the project, and it doesn't cost a lot of money.

Glines: That's right.

Sandrini: Going back to the lion discussion, on the Wyoming side, we set our season for three years; it's our intention, during the current three year cycle, to reduce the population. If things keep going as they are, we should see a significant drop in the numbers in two more years.

Smith: My family and I have been grazing permittees since the 40's and every water hole we ever developed took care of deer, elk etc., along with the cattle. Those projects were in the remote areas where you had to do the guzzlers, and we had interesting results with chuckers, antelope, small animals and birds. You're building for elk and excluding livestock. It looks like you'll have trouble making it work with a large animal, elk go through fence, and why exclude livestock?

Glines: I'm here to maintain the guzzlers that were put in to exclude cattle. They were put in and funded through different programs for just wildlife purposes. There are plenty of tanks out on the forest where cattle drink out of them. I'm just here to try to keep the ones in place for what they were designed for.

Smith: The maintenance on them would be difficult – hats off to you and the volunteers.

Blair: Do you do most of the maintenance in remote areas on 4x4s?

Glines: No, most of the areas we can access by pickup trucks. We haul a lot of material.

Scherrer: Jim Glines is a class act, he gives dedication and volunteerism, a really good name, and he's the perfect one for the Forest Service to be involved with.

Steve Baldwin: BHP&FA mission statement is: Cooperates with state and federal partner agencies in promoting public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Black Hills natural and cultural heritage. Why are we interested in partnering? I live a mile from the spot I was born, and I've spent my entire life in the forest; when you are that closely tied with the BHNH you can sit around and complain or you can get involved, so I've gotten involved. Partnerships are a collaboration of two or more entities that have a shared vision and a shared goal, our partnership really works well.

Successes: We weren't able to include the Bearlodge area in the two maps, so we printed a couple of topographical maps on that cover the Bearlodge, which will be updated with the new roads. Successful elements: I would like to pass out a copy of Brian O'Neill's 21 partnership Success Factors. Brian was the Superintendent of Golden Gate National Parks.

Weaknesses: Personality conflicts; someone always wants to be in control. On the FS side we had problems at one time with knowing who the liaison was. Rick Hudson is now our liaison. Rick understands partnerships better than any forest service employee I've ever met. Another area of weakness; the folks at the S.O. know who we are, but out at the Districts, they're not so sure who we are.

Scherrer: Thanks Steve for coming today. I have a question about the maps. The maps are now two years old, and they are very nice maps. How much do you charge for these?

Baldwin: They are \$12.95 each or \$19.95 for the set.

Scherrer: Will you combine the two maps (travel management & recreation maps)? It seems like we should be able to reduce the duplication of effort. The FS is giving their maps away, and you charge \$13.00 each. It seems like this is a way for a partnership that would increase the benefit to the Government and the public. Travel management is putting together a new map, three of them; they are a pain to put together, and the FS is giving them away. At the same time you're going to put together a map, with all the same elements, and it looks better. Quit duplicating services. People who want a map should be willing to pay something to get the map.

Baldwin: We've had similar discussions, Rick and I have talked about how we could work our way into that. The FS is required to provide that free map. The first time I saw that map, and it was free, I thought what are we doing selling these maps. There are those who will get by with the FS map, but most people want the colored map.

Scherrer: There has got to be a way to do this. If you are required to give maps away, then there should be a way to develop a product that is better for the customer. The number one complaint is that the maps are bad.

Jaeger: That is an excellent point Jim, I agree with you. The travel rule says we have to have a black and white map with a certain legend. We are rolling out 470 miles this year, but it will be a dynamic program. You could supplement our maps with the BHP&FA maps. Ours will be printed every year, so they will be the most current. There are other things we are looking at trying to do in the future.

Baldwin: Ken Marchand with the Forest Service has amazing talent, I'm sure that the National Geographic would love to hire him away. We'll try to keep the maps as current as possible.

Blair: You do have a unique partnership because you utilize the government services such as office space. Is there a long term agreement? And does that open up every 10 or 20 years?

Bobzien: It opens up every five years.

Baldwin: We've never been up against a bidding process.

Blair: It appears that, at \$19.95 for two maps, that there must be a substantial revenue flow there.

Baldwin: We're a nonprofit, our books are open. Last year our total revenue was just over \$500,000. We return 10 – 15% of the money. We maintain outlets in FS offices where we lose money, but not all of them do.

Morris Brewer: Success with our partnership with the FS and Job Corps, from the school perspective; I think of buy in from the community, the students, the parents, each year it grows. I'm also part of the special education program, and one of the things I talk about is a transition plan for the students. I send out newsletters, and it never fails, I always get questions about the YNR program. Word is spreading.

Communication is also a big part of success, we have a few meetings a year, and all concerns and things we bring to the table are acted upon. It's been a good working relationship with the Job Corps and the FS. Dennis is particularly helpful.

I volunteered to be spokesperson at a conference in Oklahoma, which was called "To Bridge a Gap". I spoke toward the end of the conference, and prior to that there were very few questions, but when I talked about this program, there were so many questions. It just goes to show that there is interest out there, and it would be nice to see it go out nationally.

Success is also in the numbers; out of the six students that have gone through the program, three of them are still working with the program. Cultural teachings are another big part of the school. They go beyond the work. Brian Johnson is a testament to what makes this program work. We had a student that was involved in a vehicle accident on the way in from a job. The student was upset, so Brian called me and asked me to make a visit out to the Center. I was very impressed that Brian cared enough about that one student that he would call me. When I got to the Center, I saw how all of the students were interacting and the friendships that had been made. I was able to talk the student into staying and completing the program. Those kinds of things are not possible without people on either side who care about it. It is an awesome program.

Smith: Do you have enough experience in the program yet to know if getting those kids into a real world activity helps with the dropout rate?

Brewer: Definitely yes. A big part of that is this eight week program. It provides them an opportunity to be in the world. They get paid; go to town, being a part of the Job Corps family of students, talking about furthering their education. Family members can make visits, etc. Get away from the reservation and get involved.

Smith: What are the other Reservations that are involved?

Brewer: Eagle Butte, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Pine Ridge.

Scherrer: Thanks Morris for coming up here today. What's the funding mechanism you operate with?

Brewer: Our funding is provided by the special education department.

Scherrer: I'm hearing nothing but success, but it's just two kids a year. You get a kid in a structured hard working atmosphere, and the sky is the limit. What is the limiting factor keeping this at just two students from Pine Ridge every year?

Jaeger: Our biggest barrier is bed space at the Job Corps and vehicles. These are the two things that really keep us from growing the program.

Scherrer: All of us were 15 year old kids once, and if we weren't directed in some way, we wouldn't be here.

Rowe: A solution then, would be to find a partnership to build another building for more bed space, and find another vehicle, is that right?

Brewer: During our summer program, we have suburbans that will sit there and not be used, so that might be an option; to have Pine Ridge provide the vehicles. We'll have to look into that a little more.

Dianna Saathoff: Steve and I are on the same page; I too brought along copies of the Brian O'Neill 21 Partnership Success Factors. I've gone back to this document time and time again.

First of all, success for partnerships, you talk about working with volunteers, many of you are here as volunteers, so thank you to all of you for volunteer. I've worked with non profits for 20 years. You are the life blood. It's critical when you talk about what attracts volunteers, they need to feel valued, there has to be something that the partnership offers. As a volunteer, they can quit at any time. All voices are heard, that every person feels valued, and that they feel it's worth their time, and they are appreciated.

In 20 years I've seen it all, that's what makes it worth it. It truly reflects good communication, trust, and a common mission and a commonality. There needs to be a common goal. Celebrate successes when they come.

Value of volunteers and the value of every voice; we need to understand each other's cultures. It is a full time commitment if it is going to be successful. I have 24 bosses, as a federal agency you have layers of decision making processes, it is easy to get frustrated.

Communication comes down to mutual exceptions, and good agreements. Defining expectations, getting those foundational blocks in place, and then dreaming, have the courage to express your dreams. One of my joys when you gather in a group like this today is that somebody knows somebody that can help. You don't manage the partnership you manage people.

Blair: What makes the partnership between a nonprofit and the Government fall apart?

Saathoff: It's communications, whether its assumptions, a lack of agreement as to what the goals are. It takes a while to rebuild trust and communications.

One success story is the conversation regarding the Mickelson Trail regarding the trail from Hill City to Mount Rushmore. I would like to compliment Craig, the FS, GF&P, and Mount Rushmore. Everyone has an equal voice.

Scherrer: Wyss and Associates were in front of us for a presentation as well. Do you have the buy in of the landowners? Make sure you communicate early.

Saathoff: The plan has been to minimize having to go through private property. So with that there hasn't been any approaching the property owners yet.

Brannan: I love the way the way the BHNF is managed, and congratulations to Craig.

I question why Darcie and Jim have to be here to ask for partnering, when the USFS should be allowed to just do their job. There are so many hurdles, so many chances for objectioners and litigation that we have to rely on volunteers because the Government can't get the work done. It shouldn't have to be that way. If we had done what we did thirty years ago, allowing people like Craig and his team to make decisions and move forward, we wouldn't need volunteers to have to do these things. Why do they have to do this when the FS should just be able to do their job? That's probably more of a question to the congressional representatives, Johnson, Thune, and Noem. USFS employees are just wasting a lot of time because of all the red tape and volunteers are wasting their time having to pick up where USFS can't, when we all could be doing something more productive.

Henegar: We have a diverse group of people on our Coalition who are interested. We learn a lot about ourselves, we share conversation, we allow ourselves to trust one another, so that we can go back out and discuss with the government. Every time we go out, we grow as people, we understand the frustrations. We are driven with the passion of doing something that might have never been done before, we want to bring government agencies together, and accomplish things.

Success to the SOBHC includes: Creating trust, shared dialogue, and walking toward possibilities.

Barriers include: Faulty communication, self-serving interests, outdated legislative and legal policies, and boundary driven restrictions.

This forest is a peoples' forest; we need whole forest thinking, moving beyond boundaries.

Bobzien: For all of the panelists, for your forethought and leadership, thank you.

Before we get into the subcommittee, we'll have questions for me then the Chair will appoint the Board:

Heinert: Break 3:25

Bobzien: We're looking at appointing a subcommittee to develop our Partnership Strategy. The FS motto is Caring for the Land and serving people. How we achieve that is by laws and regulations, responsibilities, with an appropriated budget, servicing people side, the public lands has always been important. We've been doing partnerships for years, but we don't have a play book, a strategy – how we would carry these things out. When you think back on the travel management rule that was a specific rule that we had a specific place we needed to go. If you recall when I sat at those meetings, I said I'm really proud of my staff and the rangers, we could have locked ourselves up and written a plan, but we didn't do that. We looked at the eleven recommendations from the Board over and over and over again.

Two panelists today mentioned Brian O'Neill's 21 Partnership Success Factors. Tom could have written a strategy based on our experiences, and all of that and we would have had a good strategy. Our national partnership council is very Board, our region has a partnership plan, but there is no Forest that has a strategy on how to do about partnerships. The value and advice of this group is what I'm most excited about. I can't imagine going forward with anything that we don't have direct input from you and the public; its part of caring for their land and serving the people. Most of the time we use appropriated dollars to do specific work, but we have a public that is interested in helping.

The reason I'm proposing this question is to look at that and get the sage advice from you as Board members. I think the Brian O'Neill points sum it up. I would be remiss to not ask you for your help on this. How can we be a leader on raising the bar and do a good job in the long term?

Brian O'Neill says adopt a shared vision. I would expect us to adopt that. Regionally we have a vision to enhance partnerships. They are focused on things we want to accomplish on the forest, there won't be much more. Enhancing partnerships doesn't mean more quantity, but focusing on what matters. Our challenge now, is the people that walk through the door and say they want to partner. Some of them we may not want to partner with... What ventures do you want to entertain and why?

I'm thinking about it more in the broad strategic sense, so that we go forward in building this strategy. We'll tell you our story, what are our strengths, what are our weaknesses. Is it contemporary? I'm asking you as a Board to take this next step. Best advice we can have in that strategic sense. Open for members who have questions.

Heinert: Should we address the time frame that we expect the subcommittee to complete its work and recommendations?

Bobzien: We have spent two months listening; I would like to see the preliminary report next month, with a goal to finalize it in May because of the freshness of the subject. Target would be May, but if the subcommittee wants to spend more time on it to have quality, we could do that.

Brannan: Is this coming about because there are organizations that are upset because they don't partnership? Or is it just advice?

Bobzien: Nationally there is an interest in enhancing partnerships; no other Forest has the Board to help, so that is why I am asking.

Rowe: Will the subcommittee do an audit of all the partnership groups, and then sub structure them into those who bring monetary, those that bring labor, and those that can do both, so that it can be organized by what partner can do what project that you need assistance with, is that it?

Bobzien: Tom is working with our people, we have that. I would not be asking for an audit. I would ask for capacity, common purpose and mission; it's so huge that I would not want the Board to get involved in specific tactical details.

Smith: Capacity; but in all the time I've been on the Board and other related activities, there is an increasing diversion to quantify the output, the for what, and to what extent? What do you mean when you say capacity?

Bobzien: Principally it would be work capacity. A trend right now, most of the partners, for the future, will be ones that can take on and do the work. We help organize, but not five people who will have five FS people helping them. Jim Glines has one person he deals with in the FS. We'll look for partners who can plan organize, and do more. Our timber sale receipts are way down. We don't have very much to go out for contracts, we don't have the funding mechanisms, we have people that care and will plan organize and implement projects. We have one person who manages the group.

Brannan: That's what I'm trying to say, for public consumption, I'm fine with people understanding that for 40 years we and the USFS tried to get the headwaters of Rapid Creek into public lands, but because of all the regulations, the dozens of steps that only grow in number for land exchanges, and because of a limited number of objections filed, the land was never exchanged.

If we could do the right thing from the beginning, we would benefit more than just a handful of those who object, rather than being bogged down with countless studies that don't satisfy those who object anyway. It makes no sense. Why don't you let the USFS do its job, let rangers go ranch, loggers timber the bug trees, miners extract the resources, work the land like they have done for decades? There's this mechanism that doesn't take much money to allow these people to continue to manage the forest, without requiring the resources of volunteers. I'm concerned about taking on more and more partners just because USFS time to manage the forest is being wasted on regulatory compliance and litigation. Multi-use partners like the ranchers, miners, and loggers have reams of compliance issues. Instead of allowing USFS people to do their job, we have to rely on people who can go dig up water wherever they want because we don't have time to do it ourselves; we just can't do that.

Bobzien: They have to go through the exact same steps that we all do for miners, there are no short cuts.

Rowe: Sam's comment took me down a side track, to see that different groups have different purpose and the end goal is for something that will benefit the Forest. Each of these groups gets permission to do what they want to obtain this goal. Would you want the subcommittee to set goals, beyond the broad brush, how to help you get to the bottom line, to help serve the purpose, to achieve? Would you want the subcommittee to outline a purpose, what the goals are as part of the nuggets of wisdom?

Bobzien: We have an initial frame work. It's easier to work from a starting point.

Scherrer: I understand that Tom has in his possession an outline based upon the FS experience in partnering that he uses now to determine, and list of criteria that provides guidance on who to partner with and who not to. I hear that there is a document, so what is the deliverable you want, in a very ambitious time frame I might add? What do you have that you are looking for more of?

Willems: There are guidelines and proposed outlines for developing a strategy, communications plan, and an action plan. We want to fill in the blanks. What does each of these things mean to the Black Hills?

Scherrer: With travel management, we had a goal, an objective, from Bosworth. We wanted to meet the goal. That's what we were told, I understood that goal. I just want to understand the goal here. Is it that you want to bring in additional revenue streams that will provide additional opportunities to meet the mission; knowing that you will be hamstrung to do the work yourself? Does that make sense?

Willems: We have quantities, we shared a number that we have, we didn't have a coordinated partnership or coordinator, so we had a whole book of people that worked with each one. Through this strategy, we want to define what matters, and what is it going to take to implement?

Scherrer: You want to do more with less, and the way to do that is joint venture. I understand that.

Bobzien: Yes, you heard examples of that from the panel members today. The other that we will provide is what you've heard from the panelists last month. One simple thing is having the one go to person. What are those nuggets and advice you would give us?

Heinert: Given the task as it's been defined, given the time frame to accomplish the task, do we have anyone willing to nominate themselves or submit others. I won't finalize that today, but would like to consider names. I had a consultation with the Vice Chair, Tom Blair, and asked him to serve, so I would like his name on the list of nominees.

Smith: Is this only open to the Advisory Board members and alternates or is it open to others who might have special interest?

Heinert: Can we go beyond the scope of the Board?

Bobzien: Yes you can appoint others, not members of the Board, for a subcommittee.

Smith: Are we looking at a representative or spokesman for identified user groups such as recreation, timber, or grazing?

Heinert: That could be a consideration, but we haven't discussed it.

Smith: I have to keep myself in check, but I find it works better if I know where we are going.

Heinert: That can and should be taken into consideration.

Sandrini: I would suggest that some of the current partners should be on the subcommittee, maybe some of those on the panel today.

Blair: I haven't talked with Dick Brown, but he's a good worker, and I would nominate him for the committee.

Brannan: I do think that someone has to be on here that is paying all the money, someone has to be represented.

Blair: It's a 90 day thing to be finishing up in June. We take July off, August is the field trip, so September is the next time we would get to it.

Troxel: I would nominate Carson Engelskirger.

Rowe: I would like to second the nomination of the vice chair. Are we supposed to check with people before we nominate?

Brannan: If they would be willing to accept it I would like to nominate Hugh or Nels.

Hugh: No, it's too squishy...

Smith: Ok

Rowe: I would like to nominate Bob Burns, he is a good communicator, and he would bring a lot to the table.

Blair: Leave a space open in case there is someone who just really has an interest in being involved.

Heinert: Cease nominations at this time.

Bobzien: I appreciate the Board's patients on this, believe me, Tom (Willems) and I have talked. We could have brought an outline, but we chose not to because of your perspective, I wanted to leave this open ended enough, not just go with it because this is how we've always done this.

Scherrer: Read the slate of people who have been nominated.

1. Tom Blair
2. Dick Brown
3. Carson Engelskirger
4. Nels Smith
5. Bob Burns

National Planning rule Roll Out

Heinert: Are we ready to move on to the final topic?

Bobzien: This next topic is just an introduction of an executive summary of the planning rule. Many of you remember John Rupe. John is our Regional Planner. John will lead the meeting tonight. And Bill Conley is the Planning Specialist from the Chiefs office on the new planning

rule.

John Rupe: I was the Forest Planner here on the Hills when we completed it in 1997. The act requires a plan to be revised every 15 years.

[John Rupe & Bill Conley presented an overview of the new planning rule, questions and answers were received].

Public Comments

Chairman Heinert: If anyone from the public wishes to address the Board, please do so.

George Byers: My Company is Rare Elements Resources. Rare earth elements are a group of 17 elements, on the periodic table; they are the ones that the science teacher skipped over. They are critical today to clean energy technology; they are unique in many ways. You can't have things like cell phone without them. Each cell phone has about nine of them. China produces about 97% of what's produced in the world. There's only one active mine in the US in the Mohave Desert. That mine was closed when China started producing so massively. Since that time we have lost our ability to mine these elements. America is backed into a corner. My company has property just north east of Warren Peak; several companies have come and looked. A mineral exploration property is something like a crime scene, and people come in and look for clues. After about 60 years we believe we have a property that if we can develop it, it will be the 3rd or 4th biggest rare earth property. We have reached the point that we are ready to proceed full blast, we have \$74 million in the bank, no debt, building an office in Sundance, working very carefully with Steve Kozel and his staff, and doing drilling under an environmental assessment. I've worked on other National Forests, most recently in New Mexico. This is truly a working National Forest. Our plans are to proceed this year with a feasibility study; we've already begun baseline data collection. We took a bulk sample last year; we'll begin marketing products from that sample. We hope to begin to go into production by 2015, that's ambitious, but in the last eight months the National Academy of Science and others have produced reports that have said we have a critical minerals crisis. We don't think we need more studies we think it's time to begin work. I met with many in DC, I've been in the mining business 36 years, and have never found bipartisan support for anything, but I've finally found it.

Sandrini: What kind of mine?

Byers: Open pit.

Heinert: At this time I would like to declare the meeting adjourned (5:00).

Next Meeting:

April 20